

## SIC Clips & Quips, Volume 4, Issue 5

Dear SIC Members and Supporters:

This issue of *SIC Clips & Quips* (Volume 4, Issue 5) is sent to you highlight some news which may be of interest to you as you prepare for the new school year ahead.

### Statehouse Update

Several bills of interest to education supporters are being discussed in the SC General Assembly including:

- **S604** – introduced by Senator Mike Fair opposes the adoption of the Common Core Standards. Common Core is a movement to ensure that all states are teaching similar topics in the same grades. Forty-four (44) states have already signed on to the Common Core and the SC State Board of Education and the state Education Oversight Committee have given their approval. Those supporting the bill are concerned that a national curriculum would replace our state standards and result in federal intrusion in our schools. Opponents of the bill believe that having common components will provide an even playing field for comparison among states and will ease the transition for children moving from one state to another. The PASS test will be replaced with a national test and 15% of the questions can be South Carolina specific. Many districts have already made plans to shift to Common Core. ***Status: passed out of the Senate Education subcommittee with a negative report.***
- **H4894** – introduced by Representative Brian White, this bill would authorize a state income tax deduction for parents who pay private school tuition, who pay tuition to send their child to another public school district or for home schooling. It also provides a tax credit for contributors to organizations that provide private school scholarships to children who are “exceptional needs” children or who are eligible for the free or reduced price lunch program. Proponents say the bill would increase school choice options. Opponents say the bill will cost the state’s general fund \$37 million at a time when the base student cost is funded at 1996 levels. More than 60 Representatives have signed on to support this bill. ***Status: the bill will be discussed by the full Ways and Means Committee on Tuesday, March 6. This is a tax bill, not an education bill, and therefore is not residing in the House Education Committee.***

To read these bills and others of interest, please visit [www.scstatehouse.gov](http://www.scstatehouse.gov). While there you can see who serves on the various committees that are debating these bills. Please contact your legislators and others who serve on the appropriate committees to share your views on these issues.

### Policy News You Can Use!

Please visit our website <http://sic.sc.gov> and visit our *Policy News You Can Use* page. There you will find the latest information on budget recommendations from Governor Haley, state Education Superintendent Zais, the Education Oversight Committee and the General Assembly as they become available. You’ll also find other useful information such as the latest on Common Core from the National PTA and a link to South Carolina’s ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act, which has been known in recent years as No Child Left Behind) waiver application to the US Department of Education.

## Schedule an Advocacy Training!

Could your SIC members benefit from learning how to make their voices heard in the SC General Assembly? It is important to know how to communicate with your elected officials on the local, state and federal levels in an effective and respectful manner. Please contact our office for more information and to schedule training.

### Have You Registered for the SC-SIC Annual Meeting and Awards Celebration March 24?

Local SIC members and others interested in public education in South Carolina are encouraged to get plugged-in and attend the 2012 SC School Improvement Council (SC-SIC) Annual Meeting and Awards Celebration, **Saturday, March 24**.

To be held at Dreher High School, 3319 Millwood Avenue, Columbia, the theme of this year's meeting is **"The School-Community Connection: Plugging-In to Power Potential,"** and will highlight the importance of collaborative efforts by parents, community and educators in the lives of our schools and students.

**Special guest will be former SC Governor and US Secretary of Education Dick Riley**, who will be on hand to present the 2012 Dick & Tunky Riley Award for SIC Excellence to one of this year's five finalists: Baron DeKalb Elementary SIC (Kershaw); Blythe Academy of Languages SIC (Greenville); Burton-Pack Elementary SIC (Richland 1); Jennie Moore Elementary SIC (Charleston); and Port Royal Elementary SIC (Beaufort).

The day's agenda will also include video presentations and discussions of innovative school-community collaborations and presentations from our Riley Award finalists.

Check-in for the meeting will start at 8:15 a.m. The day's activities will run from 9:00 a.m. to approximately 2:00 p.m.

Registration is open to all and is just **\$25.00**, which includes a continental breakfast and buffet lunch. (Advance registration and payment by check, money order or purchase order is required – **no later than Wednesday, March 21** – there will be no onsite registration the day of the meeting.) For additional conference information and the downloadable registration form, visit the SC-SIC website at <http://sic.sc.gov>.

So get plugged-in and register for the SC-SIC Annual Meeting and Awards Celebration today! We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, March 24!

### And you may want to attend the Leader in Me Symposium – April 2-3 in Myrtle Beach

The *Leader in Me* is a transformational leadership model being implemented in over 630 schools worldwide. It focuses on teaching *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* and other leadership principles to school staff who then model and teach the same principles of leadership to students. In addition, it isn't one more thing for your school to do because of the way the process is ubiquitously woven into existing curriculum and processes in the school – it becomes a common language and a way of unleashing the greatness in your teachers and students. For more

information contact Chad Smith at [Chad.Smith@FranklynCovey.com](mailto:Chad.Smith@FranklynCovey.com) or visit [www.theleaderinme.org/symposium](http://www.theleaderinme.org/symposium).

### SC-SIC Executive Director Appointed to REC Board

I am honored to announce that I have been appointed by the Richland County legislative delegation to serve on the board of the Midlands Regional Education Center. There are 12 Regional Education Centers throughout South Carolina working to create a network of local service providers to help students and adults access the guidance and opportunities they need to become the prepared employees South Carolina needs to compete and excel in the global economy. We are asked to imagine a state where:

- All students graduate from high school, because they understand why education is relevant to their future
- College students cultivate a path towards graduation and profitable careers
- Adults utilize the opportunity to get focused training to help them find employment in careers that offer higher wages and benefits
- Employers have an educated, well trained workforce from which to select employees

I look forward serving on this board and hope to work with them to provide you with the crucial information you need to help your students make effective and informed choices for their future education and employment.

Remember, *SIC Clips & Quips* is sent to all SIC members and supporters who share their email addresses with us. Please feel free to print out and share this information with fellow SIC members who may not have received it. We are here to help you, so please contact us any time!

*Cassie*

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